WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of printing a document from a digital file, using a plurality of print output devices, wherein a first print output device includes a plurality of media sources for supplying media of at least one selected type to a marking engine, and also includes an inserter for inserting pages of media at selectable locations within pages of an output document printed by the marking engine, the method comprising:

storing an input document in a machine readable form;

identifying at least one page of the stored input document as a special page by assigning a media type to the identified page that differs from the at least one selected type suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device;

generating a modified print document from the stored input document, by replacing each of the identified special pages with an insert command to the first print output device to insert a page from its inserter;

printing the identified special pages using one of the plurality of print output devices to produce at least one printed copy of the special pages;

loading the inserter of the first print output device with the at least one printed copy of the special pages; and

printing the modified print document using the first print output device.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying step comprises, for each of the special pages, assigning an inserter media type to the identified page.

3. The method of claim 2, wherein the assigning of an inserter media type to a page of the input document results in an invalid job configuration.

4. The method of claim 1, wherein the special pages correspond to pages to be printed in color;

and wherein the first print output device is a black and white printer.

5. The method of claim 4, wherein the step of printing the special print document uses a color print output device.

6. The method of claim 1, wherein the special pages correspond to pages having updated content, relative to pages of the stored input document that are not special pages.

7. The method of claim 1, wherein the identifying step comprises:

viewing pages of the stored input document via a graphical user interface at a computer resource;

selecting one or more of the special pages of the input document; and

assigning, to the selected one or more pages, the media type that differs from the at least one selected type suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device.

8. The method of claim 7, wherein the viewing step comprises:

executing, upon the computer resource, a companion application in combination with an authoring application, wherein a first graphical user interface window corresponding to the authoring application appears in combination with a second graphical user interface window corresponding to the companion application.

9. The method of claim 8, wherein the pages of the stored input document are viewed within the first graphical user interface window.

10. The method of claim 9, wherein the first graphical user interface window corresponds to a thumbnail view of a plurality of pages of the stored input document.

11. The method of claim 9, wherein the assigning step is performed by selecting the media type using the second graphical user interface window.

12. The method of claim 1, wherein the stored input document is in a ready-for-printer format.

13. The method of claim 1, wherein the special print document and the modified print document are in a ready-for printer format.

14. The method of claim 13, wherein the ready-for-printer format is the Portable Document Format.

15. A print shop environment, comprising:

a plurality of output print devices, a first one of the plurality of output print devices including a plurality of media sources for supplying media of at least one selected type to a marking engine, and also includes an inserter for inserting pages of media at selectable locations within pages of an output document printed by the marking engine; and

at least one computer resource for managing the plurality of output print devices, the at least one computer resource programmed to perform a sequence of operations comprising the steps of:

storing an input document in a machine readable form;

identifying at least one page of the stored input document as a special page by assigning a specific media type to the identified page that differs from the at least one selected type suppliable by the media sources of the first print output device;

generating a modified print document from the stored input document, by replacing each of the identified special pages with an insert command to the first print output device to insert a page from its inserter;

printing the identified special pages using one of the plurality of print output devices to produce at least one printed copy of the special pages;

loading the inserter of the first print output device with the at least one printed copy of the special pages; and

printing the modified print document using the first print output device.

16. The print shop environment of claim 15, wherein the at least one computer resource comprises a job preparation workstation and a print server, coupled to one another and to the plurality of print output devices over a network.

17. The print shop environment of claim 16, wherein the job preparation workstation is programmed to perform the identifying and generating steps,

18. The print shop environment of claim 16, wherein the stored input document is stored on the job preparation station.

19. The print shop environment of claim 15, wherein the at least one computer resource further comprises a network server

wherein the stored input document is stored on the network server.

20. The print shop environment of claim 15, wherein the identifying step comprises, for each of the special pages, assigning an inserter media type to the identified page.

21. The print shop environment of claim 15, wherein the special pages correspond to pages to be printed in color;

wherein the first print output device is a black and white printer;

and wherein the step of printing the special print document uses a color print output device.

22. The print shop environment of claim 15, wherein the special pages correspond to pages having updated content, relative to pages of the stored input document that are not special pages.

23. The print shop environment of claim 15, wherein the at least one computer resource comprises a job preparation workstation, a print server, and a network server, coupled to one another and to the plurality of print output devices over a network;

and wherein the job preparation workstation is programmed to execute a companion application in combination with an authoring application, wherein a first graphical user interface window corresponding to the authoring application appears in combination with a second graphical user interface window corresponding to the companion application.

24. The print shop environment of claim 15, wherein the special print document and the modified print document are in a ready-for printer format.

25. The print shop environment of claim 24, wherein the ready-for-printer format is the Portable Document Format.

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